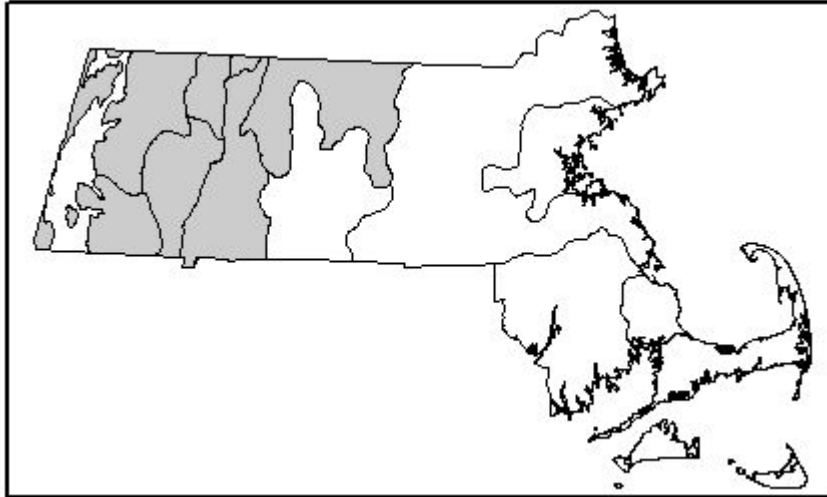


Community Name: ACIDIC TALUS FOREST / WOODLAND

Community Code: CT1B1A1000

SRANK: S4



Concept: Open to closed canopy on boulder strewn slopes with scattered and clumped trees, tall shrubs, and a lower layer dominated by vines and ferns. There is often a gradient of vegetation, with exposed rocks at the base of the cliff above the talus slope, and gradually more trees to the base of the slope. Small slopes may have closed canopy coverage from surrounding trees.

Environmental Setting: Talus derived from acidic bedrock. Ground cover is exposed talus, moss or lichen covered boulders, and deciduous litter. Community develops on dry to mesic, loose rocky slopes often below cliffs or rock outcrops. Forest grades into surrounding forests which are usually taller and more diverse. Open talus areas are drier, and rocks covered by lichens.

Vegetation Description: The canopy is formed by a mix of species including red oak (*Quercus rubra*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), yellow birch (*B. alleghaniensis*), paper birch (*B. papyrifera*), gray birch (*B. populifolia*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Scattered shrubs include currents (*Ribes* spp.), large-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*), mountain and striped maples (*Acer spicatum* and *A. pensylvanicum*), and maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*). Rock polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*), silverrod (*Solidago bicolor*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and others make up the herbaceous and vine flora. In exposed talus slopes lichen often covers the exposed rocks.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Most animals are not sensitive to the pH of the substrate, but respond to the size of boulders, cover, moisture, and surroundings of the talus slope. Porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) den in large boulder fields and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) make nests in other large boulder field, but snakes, for example, black racers (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) and black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) have hibernating dens in talus with smaller stones. Song birds of talus slopes tend to be those of the surrounding forests.

Associated Rare Plants:

CLEMATIS OCCIDENTALIS	PURPLE CLEMATIS	SC
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Associated Rare Animals:

ELAPHE OBSOLETA	BLACK RAT SNAKE	E
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Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Examples with Public Access:	Mt. Tekoa WMA, Russell,.
Threats:	
Management Needs:	
Synonyms	
USNVC/TNC:	Includes: Picea rubens Woodland Alliance -- Picea rubens/ Ribes glandulosum Woodland [CEGL006250]; and Quercus rubra- Q. prinus Woodland Alliance -- Quercus rubra / Polypodium virginianum Woodland [CEGL006320].
MA (old name):	SNE ACIDIC TALUS FOREST/WOODLAND
ME:	Acidic talus Community
NH:	Includes: Red oak- black birch/ marginal woodfern talus forest/ woodlands; Acidic talus Spruce- birch/ mountain maple talus forest/ Woodland; Low elevation spruce/ rock polypody/ moss cold- air talus Variant; Red oak- pine/ heath Rocky ridge woodland.
VT:	Includes: Transition Hardwoods talus Woodlands; Northern/ high elevation talus woodland.
NY:	Part of : Acidic talus slope woodlands and Shale talus slope woodland. Ice cave talus community has similarities.
CT:	Includes parts of: Quercus rubra/ Cornus florida forests -- Quercus rubra/ Viburnum acerifolium Community.
RI:	Not described.
Weatherbee:	Not separated, included within surrounding forest such as Dry Acidic Oak/Conifer Forest Community.
Author:	P. Swain
Date:	7/1/99